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LB 512

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator, there are three minutes remaining.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I did have a chance to talk with Senator Lynch, and I don't know if I can have the full answer to him, but I will try and find it for him. What we're finding is, and it's a fairly complicated process, but the system we've got in place has a set of responsibilities that...what I'll try and do is get something that will outline...I think we've got it somewhere...that lays out the different stages of the discussion and who pays and who doesn't pay. What has happened, Senator Lynch, is that we've seen, and one of the charts if you'll look at it, that the juvenile court boarding contract costs, they've gone in Douglas County on the boarding side of it, from, in FY96, \$750,000 in Douglas County to over \$3 million this year in 1998. So you're talking about a quadrupling in two years of the boarding expenses, which is mind-boggling. You also have a detention cost involved, and the detention costs continue to be a responsibility of the counties under this legislation. It's the pre-adjudication evaluation process and boarding costs that are...what we're talking about splitting the expenses with the state. And so you were talking about the Options' contract, and this doesn't deal with that. This is a process of individuals, juveniles, who have been brought into the criminal justice system and need to be evaluated prior to court disposition, and where they're held and where they're evaluated is the issue. Currently, a lot of that is supposed to be happening out in Geneva and Kearney. They're so full they can't take those kids in. They can't do a proper...well, they can do some evaluation, but they can't do anything about the situation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: And so we're finding that we're bursting at the seams there and that's the reason Douglas County has had to send individuals outside of the state. So what is supposed to be happening is that the Office of Juvenile Services is supposed to be building up community-based evaluation, community-based services, so we won't need Kearney and Geneva. It's not that we need to expand Kearney and Geneva so much as we need to have other alternatives. They're not getting done. It's not